

THE TWENTY-THIRD

ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE

BEDLINGTONSHIRE

URBAN

District Council,

FOR THE YEAR 1896,

BY

DANIEL CARMICHAEL, F.R.C.S.E.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Printed by Order of the Urban District Council.

BEDLINGTON :—

E. H. Metcalf, Printer and Stationer, Front Street.

—

1897.

(B)

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1896, in the Bedlingtonshire Urban District ; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.													NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE SEVERAL LOCALITIES FOR TREATMENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.														
	Census 1891	Estimated to middle of 1896.			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
					Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	FEVERS.						Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Influenza.	Measles.	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	FEVERS.						Cholera.	Erysipelas.		
									Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Typhus.									Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.						
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)																												
BEDLINGTONSHIRE URBAN DISTRICT.	16764	18000	824	Under 5		20		2			1				3		3															
				5 upwds.		12	1			7			1		2	40			1													
				Under 5																												
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				Under 5																												
				5 upwds.																												
TOTALS	16764	18000	824	Under 5		20		2			1			3		3																
				5 upwds.		12	1			7			1		2	40			1													

State here whether " Notification of Infectious Disease " is compulsory in the District. No. Besides the above-mentioned Diseases, insert in the columns with blank headings the names of any that are notifiable in the District, and fill the columns accordingly. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the Sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is situated ; and if not within the District, state where it is situated. Hospital within District.

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Bedlingtonshire Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I tender to you my Twenty-third Annual Report.

In the year ending 31st December, 1896, there were 824 births and 292 deaths registered in the Bedlingtonshire Urban District. The birth rate is 45 and the death rate 16.2 per 1000.

The following table shows the number of births and deaths during the last 23 years.

Date.	Population Census 1871, 1881 & 1891.	Estimated Population.	Total Births.	Total Deaths.	Mortality per 1,000.
1874	13,494	15,000	866	479	31.813
1875	13,494	17,000	914	397	23.352
1876	13,494	17,000	818	337	19.256
1877	13,494	15,000	813	311	20.73
1878	13,494	15,000	636	351	16.73
1879	13,494	15,000	588	333	22.2
1880	13,494	15,000	614	338	22.53
1881	14,456	14,456	672	276	19
1882	14,456	15,000	676	277	18.4
1883	14,456	15,000	656	267	17.8
1884	14,456	15,000	742	329	21.93
1885	14,456	17,000	693	304	17.8
1886	14,456	17,000	646	238	14
1887	14,456	16,000	598	308	19
1888	14,456	16,000	575	281	17.5625
1889	14,456	16,000	609	278	17.375
1890	14,456	17,000	669	285	16
1891	16,764	16,764	736	359	21.4
1892	16,764	16,764	766	364	21.7
1893	16,764	17,000	816	351	20
1894	16,764	17,000	778	316	18
1895	16,764	18,000	837	410	22
1896	16,764	18,000	824	292	16.2

The principal feature in this table is the birth and death rate.

The death rate in the years 1878, 1890, and 1896 is 16 per 1000, and the birth rate 42, 33, and 45 respectively.

The population according to the Census 1891 is 16,764, and the estimated population is 18,000.

The deaths are distributed over the year as follows :

		MALE. FEMALE. TOTAL.			
WINTER QUARTER,	{	January ...	15	- 16	- 31
		February ...	14	- 11	- 25
		March ..	15	- 12	- 27
SPRING QUARTER,	{	April ...	17	- 8	- 25
		May ...	7	- 14	- 21
		June ...	13	- 12	- 25
SUMMER QUARTER,	{	July ...	11	- 10	- 21
		August ...	16	- 13	- 29
		September ...	11	- 8	- 19
AUTUMN QUARTER,	{	October ...	12	- 7	- 19
		November ...	14	- 6	- 20
		December ...	15	- 15	- 30

Deaths in the different Quarters of the years 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, and 1896 :

	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896
1st Quarter	66	61	76	74	78	89	103	82	76	99	83
2nd Quarter	50	76	60	54	60	96	103	75	87	119	71
3rd Quarter	66	90	63	85	52	81	71	107	70	106	69
4th Quarter	56	78	82	65	95	103	87	87	83	86	69

The greatest number of deaths were registered in January, March, August, and December.

The chief causes in January were deaths from Typhoid and Scarlet Fever. In March from Meningitis and Respiratory Diseases. In August and December from Disease of the Respiratory Organs, including Phthisis Pulmonalis. The lowest mortality, 19 deaths, occurred in September and October.

Localities in which deaths of the Zymotic class have been registered during the year :

Localities.		Scarlet Fever.	Typhoid Fever.	Acute Meningitis.	Erysipelas.	Pneumonia.	Gastro Enterites and Diarrhoea.	Phthisis Pulmonalis.
Choppington	...	1	2		1	3	2	4
Bedlington	...	3	1	3		3	11	9
Sleekburn	...		1			1	6	6
Cambois	...	2	1	1		4	2	1

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The following Table shows the number of deaths attributed to Zymotic diseases during the last 22 years :

	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896
Typhus Fever
Typhoid Fever
Scarlet Fever
Rheumatic Fever
Diarrhoea
Cholera
Croup
Whooping Cough
Erysipelas
Measles
Puerperal Fever
Doubtful Sorts
Continued Fever
Diphtheria
Smallpox
TOTAL	117	92	69	39	119	88	43	30	46	55	35	38	75	42	64	33	40	55	85	33	67	41

The total miasmatic deaths are at the rate of 2 per 1000 population.

Deaths from Typhoid Fever	0·2 per 1000.
„ „ Diarrhœa -	0·81 „
„ „ Scarlet Fever -	0·3 „
„ „ Whooping Cough	0·21 „

DIARRHŒA AND WHOOPING COUGH.

The two most fatal Zymotic diseases during the year were diarrhœa and whooping cough ; 17 of the former and 7 of the latter were registered.

SCARLET FEVER.

Thirty-two cases of scarlet fever were notified in the whole district, of this number six deaths were registered.

DIPHTHERIA.

One case of diphtheria occurred at Bedlington, and was sent to the hospital.

TYPHOID FEVER.

Seven cases and five deaths were attributed to typhoid fever during the year.

Two of the deaths occurred at Choppington, one at Bedlington, one at Sleekburn, and one at Cambois.

As many as possible of the cases were isolated, and the houses and drains disinfected.

Several cases were notified at New Row, West Sleekburn.

The dairies and cowsheds in the locality were inspected, and found in a good sanitary condition ; but the sewer when exposed to nearly its whole length was discovered to be inefficiently sealed at the sockets. There

was also a large deposit of vegetable organic matter which used to accumulate in a pool at the end of the main which supplies the inhabitants with drinking water. To remedy this, a circulating pipe was applied to the end of the main. This appears to have had the desired effect, as no fresh cases have been reported.

In the month of February another outbreak of Typhoid occurred at Cambois Colliery. The disease was attributed to the reprehensible habit of the people using raw mussels as an article of diet, from a bed situated in close proximity to the outlet of the Cambois sewer, which discharges on the north shore of the river Blyth.

In corroboration of this, of a family of twelve three partook of raw mussels and showed symptoms of typhoid corresponding with the incubation period of the disease ; the others who had not partaken escaped.

Typhoid was endemic at Bebside about the same time, where the disease in many instances proved fatal.

It is no secret that raw mussels were sold and consumed every Saturday night at the public houses in the district.

This proof may be taken for what it is worth, but I think the mussel bed should be regarded with suspicion.

Notices were printed (by order of the Council) and distributed over the infected district, warning the people of their danger.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

Phthisis was the cause of 23 deaths, and Bronchitis 28 deaths during the year, and 7 deaths from Whooping Cough were registered.

Monthly Classification of Deaths during the Year 1896.

	January F.H.	February F.H.	March F.H.	April F.H.	May F.H.	June F.H.	July F.H.	August F.H.	Sept'ber. F.H.	October, F.H.	Nov'ber. F.H.	Dec'ber. F.H.
Mean Temperature ...	44.7	43.5	43.8	48.9	52.7	58.8	57.7	56.9	55.4	46.0	44.7	43.3
Mean Barometer ..	29.9	30.0	29.4	29.9	30.0	29.6	29.7	29.8	29.2	29.5	29.8	29.5
Name of Diseases.												
SCARLET FEVER ...	3			2					1			
TYPHOID FEVER ..	3			1		1						
DIARRHOEA ...	2			2	1	1	1			1		1
GASTRO ENTERITES	2			1		2	2	3		1	1	4
PNEUMONIA ...		1	1	2		2	1	1	1		1	1
MENINGITIS ...			1		1			1				1
PHTHISIS PULMON- ALIS ...	1	4	4		2	4	1	1	2		3	1

SUMMARY.

The general death rate is 16 per 1000 estimated population to the middle of 1896 ; and the infant mortality under one year of age per 1000 births registered is 143. The Zymotic death rate compares favourably with the preceding year, scoring only 2 per 1000 ; and the birth rate, 45 per 1000, is higher than in any year on record.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The number of children registered as dying under one year of age is 118, representing a rate of 6 per 1000.

Mortality in 1875	-	-	-	162
„ „ 1876	-	-	-	122
„ „ 1877	-	-	-	102
„ „ 1878	-	-	-	75
„ „ 1879	-	-	-	83
„ „ 1880	-	-	-	106
„ „ 1881	-	-	-	84
„ „ 1882	-	-	-	84
„ „ 1883	-	-	-	81
„ „ 1884	-	-	-	111
„ „ 1885	-	-	-	99
„ „ 1886	-	-	-	84
„ „ 1887	-	-	-	90
„ „ 1888	-	-	-	81
„ „ 1889	-	-	-	81
„ „ 1890	-	-	-	93
„ „ 1891	-	-	-	150
„ „ 1892	-	-	-	114
„ „ 1893	-	-	-	148
„ „ 1894	-	-	-	120
„ „ 1895	-	-	-	54
„ „ 1896	-	-	-	118

SANITARY WORK.

Two patients have been sent to the hospital during the year ; and a most efficient sewer has been laid between Choppington and the river Wansbeck.

The Council is at present considering a plan for giving greater facilities to the people at Carnbois and North Blyth in obtaining a better supply of drinking water ; but the " Notification Act " I am sorry to say has not been adopted ; and many of the dairies and cowsheds in the district are in the same condition as I have already reported in the previous year.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

The new sewer between Guide Post and Sheepwash discharges at present into the Wansbeck above the wear, which obstructs the solid sewage in its course down the river ; in time this will cause a dangerous nuisance.

The sewer should be extended and made to discharge into the tidal water.

The " Notification Act " should be adopted.

The damp and ill ventilated dairies in the district should have the attention of the Council.

I have the honour, Gentlemen,

To be your obedient Servant,

DANIEL CARMICHAEL.

January, 1897

